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15. (Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, wherein the diameter reducing portion has a tapered end portion.

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16. (Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 1, further comprising an integrally formed washer-shaped boss body portion formed at a lower end of the opening/closing pin. *-NS*

17. Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 10, further comprising an integrally formed washer-shaped boss body portion formed at a lower end of the opening/closing pin. *{ Same as claim 16 }*

18. (Added) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim 14, further comprising an integrally formed washer-shaped boss body portion formed at a lower end of the opening/closing pin. *L*

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all of the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121 are now satisfied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the amendment and remarks filed on September 3, 2002 and pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew M. Calderon
Registration No 38,093

McGuireWoods, LLP
Suite 1800
1750 Tysons Blvd
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 712-5426

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1. (Amended) A gas opening/closing pin which opens and closes a gas inlet and outlet formed in a pipe holder which seals one end portion of a cylinder and moves the position of a piston in the cylinder, wherein at least one recess which opens the gas inlet and outlet is formed on the outer peripheral surface of the central portion of the gas opening/closing pin and [one of washer-shaped boss body portion and] an integrally formed two stepped diameter reducing portion formed at an upper end of the opening/closing pin [in which the diameter is reduced is integrally formed].
3. (Amended) A gas opening/closing pin according to claim [2] 10, wherein the diameter reducing portion has at least one step.

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